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September 18, 2003

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Honorable Ken Calvert U.S. House of Representatives 2201 Rayburn Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Calvert:

We are writing in support of your efforts to authorize the CALFED Bay-Delta Program through HR 2828. The success of the CALFED Program is essential to the well being of California's economy and environment.

Through the CALFED Program, California has made considerable gains in water reliability and environmental recovery. In the past decade, California's water community has invested heavily in local resources, such as conservation and reclamation; substantially increased local water storage capacity, both surface and groundwater; improved the ability to transfer water among willing buyers and sellers; and taken many other steps to improve water supply reliability. At the same time, CALFED has implemented an unprecedented ecosystem restoration program and virtually every threatened and endangered fish species in the watershed is showing encouraging signs of recovery.

We cannot overstate the importance of a successful authorization this year and we appreciate your commitment to moving the process along. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program has been held up as the model for resolving conflicts in California and throughout the West where water issues are so critical. The program, however, can never realize its potential without federal authorization and funding.

We applaud the concepts contained in your bill HR 2828, which included both an authorization of CALFED and a competitive grants program for projects like desalination and water recycling. We look forward to working with you, Senator Feinstein and the California Congressional Delegation to secure CALFED authorization this year.

If there is anything we can do to help you with this effort, please do not hesitate to call us.

Very truly yours,

Board President

DG: etb